

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a work session on Monday, January 11, 2016 in the DuPont Conference Room at the Buena Vista Conference Center, New Castle, Delaware. The session began at 9:17 a.m.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Nina Lou Bunting, Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, Terry M. Whittaker and Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director. Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board was also in attendance.

Others attending included: Dan Rich, WEIC; Elizabeth Burland, WEIC; Kelly Sherretz, WEIC, Joe Pika, WEIC, Bill Doolittle; Mike Matthews, RCEA; Harrie Ellen Minnehan, Christina School District Board/WEIC; Dusty Blakey, Colonial School District, Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network; Merv Daugherty, Red Clay School District; and Mark Holodick, Brandywine School District.

#### Discussion and Review of WEIC Final Proposal

It was noted that the purpose of the work session was to allow the Board the opportunity to work through the proposal section by section and provide comments and concerns. Questions raised by the State Board would be forwarded to WEIC asking for a response prior to the January 21<sup>st</sup> State Board meeting.

There was discussion and questions posed on the re-districting recommendations and if boundary changes would create different feeder patterns. There was also discussion on school board members that are voted on boards based on the seat/area they represent. The issue of district boards reaffirming their original vote to support the WEIC plan was also discussed as action by the local boards was prior to the submission of the final proposal.

The definition of "other students at risk" was discussed and any recommendations on funding that may come from the EFIC committee. The Board also discussed the funding amounts that have been brought up for implementing WEIC; \$7.5 million for transition along with \$3 million one-time funding. There was concern expressed about the source of funding as well as increases in property taxes from reassessment and tax rate adjustments. Comments were also made on the weighted unit funding and questioned the reasoning on why the plan does not include all students in the City of Wilmington. The Board also noted that the plan requested that the 2008 funding level be restored to districts and questioned if that funding is not restored what the ramifications would be to the plan.

Discussion continued on the impact of students between now and full implementation in 2019 and what happens in the meantime, short term goals versus long term goals. The Board agreed that many items needed additional clarification and that the focus should be high quality schools and student outcomes.

The work session adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The motion was made by Mr. Coverdale, seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously by voice vote.